

PARASITISM OF THE QUANDONG

(*Fusanus acuminatus*, R.Br.).

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The Quandong (*Fusanus acuminatus*, R. Br.) is a native of Western Australia, and is variously known as Native Peach or Native Plum. It has a fruit somewhat bigger than that of the sandalwood, globular and red and about the size of a plum. This is edible and has a pleasant acid flavour. It is often made into jam. The quandong extends right down to the coast, a number of trees being found at Woodman's Point, south of Fremantle. Its wood is not valuable (though sometimes used to adulterate sandalwood consignments) and so it is as common in the bush as it ever was. It is closely related to the sandalwood and, like it, was found to be parasitic on surrounding trees. Cases of apparent isolation would at first sight appear to indicate that the quandong is not an obligatory parasite but on digging at isolated trees it was found that either a host plant had a long root running near the quandong, or else long roots of the quandong ran out and attacked distant roots. The haustoria are exactly of the sandalwood type. The investigation was carried out at Burracoppin in November, 1920, and the host plants found were *Acacia acuminata*, *Eucalyptus torophleba*, and *Daviesia euphorbioides*.

Often the roots are parasitic on themselves. This is of no advantage to the plant but does no appreciable harm, though rather a waste of energy on the part of the plant. Most of these root parasites show self-parasitism: a property also shared by some stem parasites, such as *Cassytha* and *Cuscuta*.

OTHER SANTALACEOUS PARASITES.

Other parasites belonging to this family were found on investigation; in fact all the members of the family so far examined have been found to be parasitic. These results will be published in a future paper.

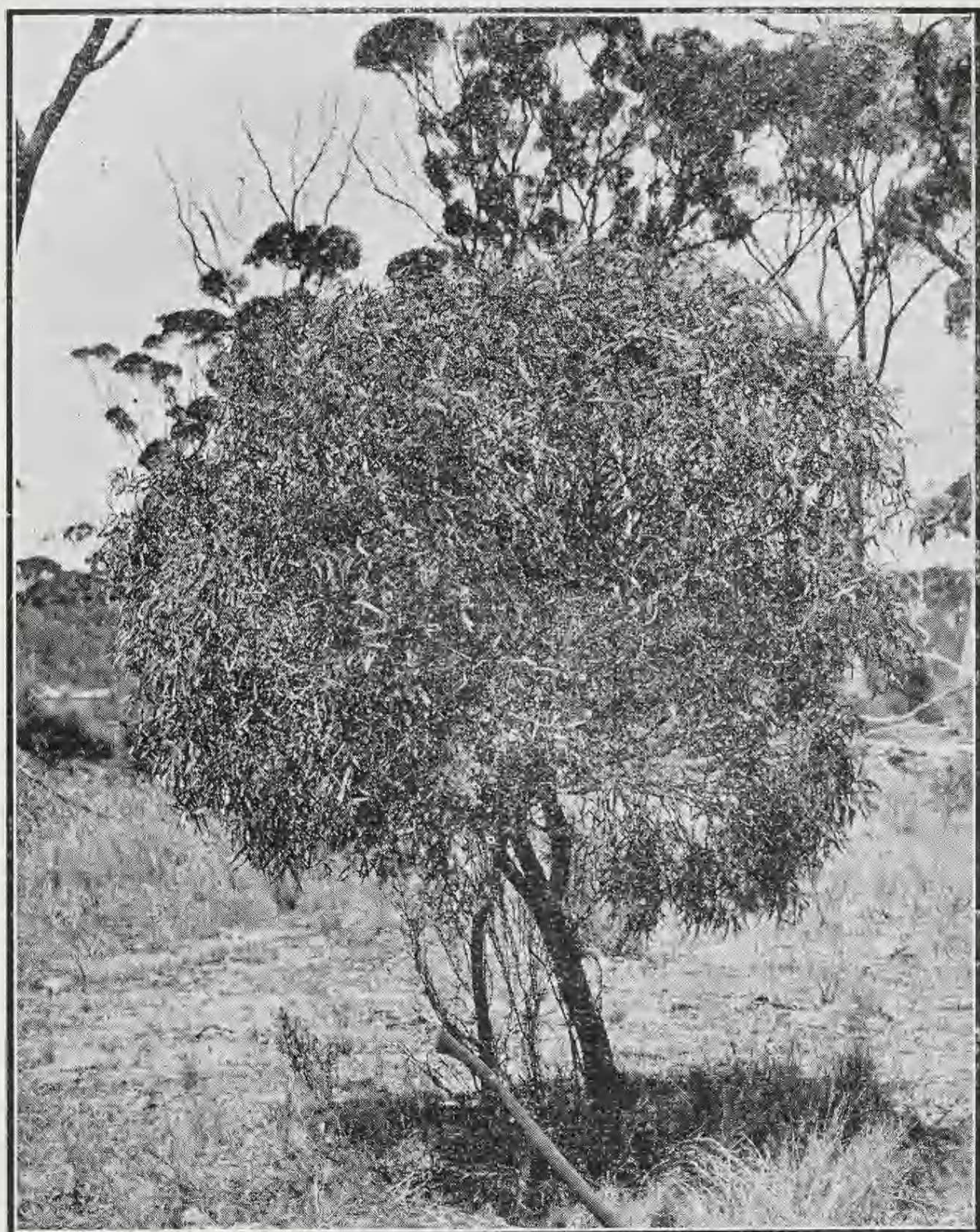


Plate XI.—Quandong.